

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 119

BY TYRRELL

(COMPANION TO LSB 4413SS BY DRAKE)

1 A Concurrent Resolution urging federal Congressional
2 support for widows and widowers under the federal
3 Railroad Retirement Act of 1974.

4 WHEREAS, a Concurrent Resolution has been
5 introduced in the United States House of
6 Representatives to encourage the United States
7 Railroad Retirement Board to modify the guaranteed
8 minimum benefit for widows and widowers to provide
9 adequate annuities; and

10 WHEREAS, for years, many in the railroad industry
11 have argued that annuities paid to widows and widowers
12 under the federal Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 are
13 inadequate; and

14 WHEREAS, during the lifetime of a railroad employee
15 and the employee's spouse, the employee receives a
16 full annuity and so does the spouse; and

17 WHEREAS, however, after the employee's death, only
18 a widow's or widower's annuity is payable, which under
19 current law is no less than that widow or widower
20 received as a spouse in the month before the
21 employee's death; and

22 WHEREAS, the widow's or widower's annuity is often
23 found inadequate and leaves the survivor with less
24 than the amount of income needed to meet ordinary and
25 necessary living expenses; and

26 WHEREAS, no outside contributions from taxpayers
27 are needed, and any changes will be paid for from

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1 within the railroad industry itself, including a full
2 share by active employees; NOW THEREFORE,

3 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, THE
4 SENATE CONCURRING, That the General Assembly urges the
5 United States Congress to support U.S. House of
6 Representatives Concurrent Resolution 52 that calls
7 for the Congress of the United States to recognize the
8 concern of many in the railroad industry that the
9 spousal annuity under the current system is inadequate
10 and often leaves the survivor with less than the
11 amount of income needed to meet ordinary and necessary
12 living expenses and that a process of dialogue must
13 take place among all parties of the railroad
14 community, including rail labor, management, and
15 retiree organizations, before railroad annuity
16 legislation can be enacted; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the General Assembly
18 supports adoption of the federal Congressional
19 resolution which urges and exhorts all parties of the
20 railroad community, including rail labor, management,
21 and retiree organizations, to find a suitable way to
22 fund an amendment that would improve the survivor
23 benefits component to the Railroad Retirement Act of
24 1974; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this
26 Resolution be sent by the Chief Clerk of the House of
27 Representatives to the President of the United States,
28 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker
29 of the United States House of Representatives, all
30 members of the Iowa Congressional delegation, and the

1 members of the United States Railroad Retirement
2 Board.

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